

SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

November 2010

VOL.1 ISSUE 2



SOS PURPOSE

- Our Fallen Warriors have paid the ultimate sacrifice
- The Army has a commitment to their Families
- Families deserve our respect, gratitude and the very best we can provide



Mission Statement

THE SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES (SOS) PROGRAM WILL EMBRACE AND REASSURE SURVIVORS THAT THEY ARE CONTINUALLY LINKED TO THE MILITARY PROGRAM THAT ENABLES THEM TO REMAIN AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE MILITARY FOR AS LONG AS THEY

Who We Are and What We Do

Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult things anyone can go through. Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) connects you with people who can help you move forward and find strength.

Many times after you have lost loved ones, there are unresolved issues or questions that may surface months or years after the loss. We understand that new issues and questions may arise long after the Casualty Assistance Officer has concluded his or her duties.

No one should negotiate their dreams. Dreams must be free to flee and fly high. No government, no legislature, has a right to limit your dreams. You should never agree to surrender your dreams.

Rev. Jesse Jackson

The Role of the SOS Coordinator

- ✓ Work closely with casualty assistance centers benefits coordinators and the casualty assistance officer to ensure the survivor receives the necessary services they need
- ✓ Function as the long term support personnel for survivors
- ✓ Provide expertise on local, state, and federal benefits
- ✓ Give Briefings to the community and leadership; and provide life skills and supportive counseling
- ✓ Form support groups, networks, and offer retreats that will allow surviving families the opportunity to receive support
- ✓ Work with the family, when requested, to arrange for estate and financial advice as appropriate
- ✓ Work with military family honors and contact the surviving spouse to offer support services to survivors of our retired service members

CALIFORNIA SOS COORDINATORS

NORTHERN	OFFICE	CELL
Richard McDuff	916-854-3472	916-730-5093
Nathaniel Pleasantbey	925-895-0507	
SOUTHERN		
Blanca Trevino	323-262-8444 Opt6	323-273-6083
Leona Wheeler	562-594-1554	562-225-4381
Dawn Lessley	858-573-7055	619-384-9804

Assistance for Surviving Families

- ★ **MILITARY ONESOURCE**
1-800-342-9647
www.militaryonesource.com
- ★ **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
www.va.gov
- ★ **TRICARE (HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE)**
www.tricare.osd.mil
- ★ **TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS (TAPS)**
www.taps.org
- ★ **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**
www.ssa.gov
- ★ **NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILIES ASSOCIATION (NMFA)**
www.militaryfamily.org

SURVIVOR /WIDOW

Trying to make decisions when you are experiencing grief and sadness can be overwhelming. Fortunately, there are many resources available to help you and your families as you move through this challenging time.



[A Survivor's Guide to Benefits](#) contains information about working with a casualty assistance officer, making funeral arrangements, and applying for benefits. Additional resources are included, as well as a list of important documents you'll need to stay organized.

We can help with information and referrals on a wide range of issues, including coping with the loss of a loved one. Up to 12 free face-to-face counseling sessions are also available. Call 1-800-342-9647 (7 days a week, 24 hours a day) for assistance. [Also see our additional articles and resources.](#)

[TAPS](#) is a national organization that offers support, mentoring, and other services to those grieving the loss of a loved one in the armed forces. **Hot line:** 1-800-959-TAPS (8277)

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Benefits



- [Burial Expenses](#)
- [Death Gratuity](#)
- [Death Investigations](#)
- [Death Pension](#)
- [Dependency Compensation](#)
- [Educational Assistance](#)
- [Gold Star Lapel Button](#)
- [Goods: Storage and Shipment](#)
- [Health and Dental Care](#)
- [Retiree Benefits](#) VOL. # ISSUE #
- [Retiree Casualty: DOs and DON'Ts](#)
- [Service member's Life Insurance](#)
- [Surviving Family Benefits](#)
- [Survivor Benefit Plan](#)
- [Survivor Resources](#)
- [Survivor Support Organizations](#)
- [Terms and Definitions](#)
- [Tragedy Assistance Program](#)
- [VA: Benefits Overview](#)
- [Veteran Disability Compensation](#)

EMBRACING AND REASSURING SURVIVORS FOR AS LONG AS THEY DESIRE"



Nothing is predestined: The obstacles of your past can become the gateways that lead to new beginnings.

Ralph Blum